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The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) is a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Through federal funding, the GOSV annually sponsors [16 AmeriCorps State programs](#) that support over 1,000 AmeriCorps members. These members provide support for disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families in Maryland. The GOSV also advocates for effective volunteer program management and recognizes volunteer service across the state on behalf of the Governor of Maryland.

Immediate Release

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The 31st Annual Governor's Service Awards Honors Volunteers

Marylanders Recognized for Service That Strengthens Communities

Baltimore, MD (October 1, 2014) – The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) formally announced that 17 Maryland residents have been selected to receive Governor's Service Awards as Category Honorees. Additionally, two residents will receive special recognition during the ceremony. The recipients will be honored on October 9, 2014 during a special ceremony and reception at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland.

This year marks the 31st year a Maryland Governor has recognized volunteers from around the state at a special recognition event. The recipients reflect the diversity of Maryland and demonstrate its spirit of service. Over the past year, over 1.3 million Marylanders helped tackle some of the major challenges facing the State by donating their time and energy.

“As we continue to navigate through these tough times, the support we get from volunteers and community organizations across our state remains strong,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “These dedicated individuals and groups help to strengthen our cities and towns by responding to our neighbors in need.”

The recipients were selected in 12 different categories including individual, organizational, and group volunteers. In addition, special recognition was given to individuals and groups celebrating significant accomplishments. Below is a description of each of the Governor's Service Award recipients and those receiving special recognition.

31st Governor's Service Awards Category Honorees (in alphabetical order of category) and Special Honorees

AMERICORPS ALUM

Kelly MacBride-Gill

Serves Baltimore City, Baltimore County

Kelly MacBride-Gill is extraordinary AmeriCorps alum who embodies every word of the AmeriCorps pledge. Kelly completed two AmeriCorps terms of service. In 2012, after learning that the AmeriCorps Alums Baltimore Chapter was not active, she took the initiative to become its president. As the Chapter President, Kelly has organized several volunteer projects for chapter members, including participation in a tree planting at Traci Adkins Park, a day of service at the Maryland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Baltimore's Rebuilding Day, and a service day at Project PLASE where chapter members painted the women's rooms.

COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

Town of Marydel – Mayor Debbie Rowe

Serves Caroline County

The Mayor of Marydel, Mayor Debbie Rowe, has committed her life to service and has definitely taken the term "public service" to heart as an elected official. Mayor Rowe has implemented many service projects for the town to get involved in over her tenure, including relocating the Mason Dixon Crown Stone, working with the Lion's Club to provide eye glasses to those who cannot get them, working with the local churches to implement activities for the youth in the community, and more. The town also partnered with Jen Dininger and several local youth to collect over 50 bags of trash to help benefit the environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

CORPORATE/BUSINESS CATEGORY

GCC Technologies

Serves Garrett County

GCC Technologies (GCC) is a small Federal contracting firm, headquartered in Oakland, MD. GCC takes pride in inspiring employees to strengthen their community by giving back through volunteerism, monetary and non-monetary donations, and participating in charitable events. Since the Program was implemented in April of 2013, GCC has facilitated over 500 hours of community service and managed the disbursement of roughly \$350,000 in goods to over 60 local non-profit organizations.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE-LEARNING CATEGORY

Gina Pucci & Health I 9th Grade Class

Serves Cecil County

Gina Pucci is a dedicated and passionate educator at Perryville High School. In 2013, Ms. Pucci's Health ninth grade class decided to focus their service-learning project around bullying. The ninth grade Health class students created a silent video depicting the various types of bullying that exists among teens within the school, presented facts and statistics throughout the video, and ended with a quote encouraging all students to become an up-stander to bullying. The video was shown to the students and faculty of Perryville High School and a copy of the Anti-Bullying Silent video was sent to the local middle school as a resource during their Anti-Bullying Lessons.

FAITH-BASED CATEGORY

DreamBuilders of Maryland

Serves State-wide

DreamBuilders of Maryland is a group of all-volunteer adults and youth who donate their time and resources to build homes for those in need locally in Maryland, throughout the US, and overseas. During 2013, DreamBuilders' local project was the rebuilding of the home of a Baltimore City family that had been destroyed by a fire. Teams ranging in size from six to twenty-five donated approximately 400 volunteer hours on this project. In addition to DreamBuilders' local projects the group contributed approximately 3,800 volunteer hours on four building projects in New Orleans, New Jersey (in the wake of Hurricane Sandy), West Virginia, and Joplin, MO.

GROUP/TEAM CATEGORY

Girl Scout Troop 1369

Serves Frederick County

Girl Scout Troop 1369 is made up of 11 and 12 year old Girl Scouts all in the 6th grade. Troop 1369 participates in the Annual Frederick MS Walk, the Damascus 5K Freedom Run, Gaithersburg Harvest Festival, Relay for Life making luminaries, and more. Additionally, on separate occasions, girls from the troop brought three baby birds to Second Change Animal Rehab Center for rehabilitation. During Christmas of 2013, Troop 1369 visited the residents at the Alpine Assisted Living to sing Christmas carols and hand out their homemade Christmas ornaments.

Repairs With Care

Serves Anne Arundel County

Edward "Eb" Malarkey and John Scheleur are a dynamic duo who stepped up to manage the Repairs With Care when Partners In Care lost funding for a grant supported staff member. As a duo, the team provides no-monetary-cost repairs for older adults in Anne Arundel County. Eb has donated over 1,400 hours of service, and John has donated 690 hours at Partners in Care.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Helen H. Baker

Serves Washington County

Helen H. Baker serves as a volunteer for the Washington County Department of Social Services. She serves approximately 15 hours each week in assisting the Fiscal Unit of the Child Support Office. In this role, Helen identifies cases to be reviewed and approved, greets and escorts

customers, and much more. Her service to the community contributes in a positive way to the child support caseload that covers approximately 6,000 Maryland citizens.

Maurice Nick

Serves Montgomery and Prince George's County

Maurice Nick is an outstanding leader who serves to address and raise awareness about issues of hunger, education, family issues, and entrepreneurship in the community. In 2013, Maurice served over 300 hours, collected over 400 coats, and raised funds to fill 83 backpacks with school supplies for elementary school students. Maurice serves as a volunteer at the Maryland Food Bank where he prepares hot meals, and as a Youth Outreach Leader at his church. Further, in 2013 Maurice helped to raise \$4,000 as a team member of "Rope of Hope" for the Maryland Kidney Foundation.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Anna Brooks

Serves Dorchester County

Anna Brooks, a 96 year old woman, has been a registered volunteer at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center (ESHC) since 1970. She began her service as a member of the ESHC Auxiliary and served as hospital chair for the Milton Methodist Churchwomen. Ann has served as the ESHC Auxiliary's President, Vice-President, Secretary, Hospitality Chair and Ways & Means Chair. Ann has spent countless volunteer hours conducting patient satisfaction surveys for the hospital, she has shopped for patients who do not have access or privileges to shop in the local businesses, and she assists in organization special patient activities.

Samira Hussein

Serves Montgomery County

Samira Hussein is a Palestinian-American refugee dedicated to stopping bullying and expanding multiculturalism in the school setting and beyond. For over ten years, Samira was the Chair of Human Relations for the county's PTA and started a number of programs in schools. She has delivered more than 150 presentations to at least 5,000 people about bullying. She has been instrumental in collaborating with educators in developing the county's curriculum and school calendar towards being more multicultural. Samira also serves on the Gaithersburg Multicultural Affairs Committee and founded Arab American Heritage Month.

NATIONAL SERVICE PARTICIPANT

Shareki Chaney

Serves Baltimore City

Shareki Chaney served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at the Alliance for Community, Teachers, and Schools (ACTS). As a VISTA member, Shareki is an integral member of a small team that is piloting Project LIFFT, a community school model. With Shareki's assistance and encouragement, teams at four LIFFT schools tackle issues like improving the academic success of students. In her first six months of service, Shareki recruited 42 parent and teacher volunteers who completed 1,472 hours of service across four Baltimore City Public Schools.

Deborah Johnstone

Serves St. Mary's County

Deborah Johnstone has served as a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Mary's County for the past six years and has provided more than 1,800 hours of service. As a RSVP volunteer, Deborah has helped homebound seniors by driving them to doctor's appointments, medical procedures, and pharmacy visits. Further, she has assisted in the AARP Tax Aide Program where she offered free tax-filing services to senior citizens and low-income individuals. Deborah has also served in the Learning is ForEver Program by organizing and leading educational tours for senior citizens to help them continue to learn and grow while maintaining social ties.

NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteers at USO Metro BWI

Serves State-wide

USO-Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore's mission is to lift the spirits of the troops and their families. The USO has continued to uphold this mission through the help of their volunteers at the USO International Gateway Lounge at BWI. The Lounge serves as a "home away from home" to military personnel traveling through BWI Marshall Airport. Approximately 220 volunteers and one employee staffs the Lounge. The facility is opened from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, however, operating hours may extend based on flight schedules. In 2013, the volunteers at USO Metro BWI provided 26,011 hours of their time to the USO.

SERVICE-LEARNING LEADER CATEGORY

Melissa Lees

Serves Baltimore City, Baltimore County

Melissa Lees, Director of Campus Ministry and Service, goes above and beyond to ensure that students, faculty, and staff at the Notre Dame of Maryland University are provided with opportunities to engage in meaningful service to the community. Since Melissa took over service-learning in January 2013, there has been a significant increase in the number of students participating in civic engagement initiatives. First year students at the University completed 1,023 service hours and 29 service projects at 12 service sites. During the 2012- 2013 academic year, over 1,400 all the Notre Dame students served over 104,000 hours.

YOUTH CATEGORY

Michael Hudson

Serves Baltimore City

Michael Hudson is a dedicated volunteer who plays an important role in the regional conservation community. As a member of the Junior Zoo Crew member at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Mike has facilitated educational experiences for the Zoo's patrons and in 2013 served at The Zoo for over 190 hours. Michael has also led a number of bird educational walks with the Patterson Park Audubon center and Baltimore Green Space.

Paul Kirkpatrick III

Serves Frederick County

Paul Kirkpatrick III began volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club at the beginning of the 2013 school year. Paul plays a variety of roles including testing the temperature of all meals served to the members, helping members with their homework, and mentoring elementary school students. In total, Paul volunteered over 310 hours in 2013.

SPECIAL HONOREES

Imam Hassan A. Amin

Serves Baltimore City

Imam Hassan A. Amin is a service leader who has led the Muslim Social Services Agency in hosting a variety of service events. One event, called Resources for a Better Tomorrow, offers attendees an opportunity to receive free access to healthcare screening, hygiene kits, hot meals, and more. In 2013, Imam Amin's organization arranged for 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to be delivered and distributed to at least 1,000 people living in and around the Upton community of Baltimore City. Imam Amin has been on the Governor's steering committee for the Day to Serve initiative and has launched Day to Serve projects.

Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)

Serves Howard County

HCCS, founded in 1998, aims to foster the success of students in learning Chinese language and arts, promote Chinese culture and values, and serve the needs of local communities. The school has grown from 80 students to 1,400 students in its enrollment. HCCS's success is attributable to its volunteers, teachers, and community participation. HCCS volunteers and teachers spent 6,000 hours on language education, heritage appreciation, and uniting the community. They have also effectively engaged in the county and State in cultural events to strengthen the essential understanding about the Chinese culture and heritage and demonstrate the school's support to the community affairs at large.

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